

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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SAJ-01 OMB-01 NEA-06 EA-06 SAM-01 AEC-05 FEAE-00

NIC-01 /075 W

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R 021544Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5072

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA 1885

/USIA WASHDC 5040

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 18081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA REACTION TO VLADIVOSTOK

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 18013

1. SUMMARY. LITANY OF PRAISE FOR RESULTS OF THE
VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT CONTINUES IN SOVIET MEDIA AT WHAT
SEEMS TO US TO BE RECORD LEVELS. EMPHASIS IS ON BREADTH OF
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INTERNATIONAL AAPPROVAL AS WELL AS OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT IN
U.S. PAINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO INDICATE SUPPORT IN U.S.

BY BROAD SPECTRUM OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING BOTH PARTIES IN CONGRESS, BUSINESS, AND BOTH URBAN AND "OUT-BACK" PRESS. SOVIET-ORIGINATED COMMENTARY CONSISTS LARGELY OF PARTOTING OF POLITBURO'S FAVORABLE EVALUATION OF SUMMIT (REFTEL) AND OF BREZHNEV'S REMARKS DURING HIS SPEECH IN ULAN BATOR, THOUGH OCCASIONAL INDEPENDENT FORAYS TEND TO EVEN MORE VOLUBLE PRAISE. ON LESS AVORABLE SIDE, ATTACKS ON SENATOR JACKSON HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR AGAIN WITH REGULARITY, APPARENTLY SPARKED BY HIS EX-PRESSIONS OF DOUBT CONCERNING JOINT STATEMENT RELEASED AT VLADIVOSTOK. ALSO, LOWER LEVEL SNIPING AT U.S. POLICIES CONTINUES, WITH TRADITIONAL TARGETS (CIA AND DIEGO GARCIA) TAKING THEIR LUMPS, AS DOES U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, CAMBODIA, AND SOUTH VIETNAM. IN LOWEST AND MOST FAR-FETCHED BLOW OF THE WEEK, KRSNAYA ZVEZDA COMMENTARY ASSOCIATED U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WITH "OIL MONOPOLY" INTERESSETS IN THE ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO PRAISE FOR THE RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK MORE THAN A FULL WEEK AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE SUMMIT. GLOWING, IF CHOPPILY-EDITED SOVIET DOCUMENTARY FILM APPEARED ON TV LAST NIGHT AND IS CURRENTLY MAKING ROUNDS OF MOVIE THEATERS. FOCUS OF PRESS COVERAGE IS A CONTINUING RECITATION OF EXPRESSIONS OF APPROVAL OF THE "IMPORTANT POLITICAL RESULTS" OF VLADIVOSTOK BY BLOC, WESTER EUROPEAN, JAPANESE, THIRD WORLD, AND U.S. PRESS; BY U.S. BUSINESSMEN; BY LEADING MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES IN CONGRESS; AND BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN OF THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS.

3. AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN IZVESTIYA NOVEMBER 26 USED ALMOST LYRICAL LANGUAGE IN EXPLAINING WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED "" "A GREAT DEED HAS BEEN DONE...IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERESTIMATE (ITS) SIGNIFICANCE." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED THAT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN "A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT BY BOTH SIDES..."THE TWO SIDES REGARD THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS NOT AS TRANSIENT, CONFIDENTIAL
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BUT AS FUNDAMENTAL...ONE CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT A SUBSTANTIAL STEP FORWARD HAS BEEN MADE IN THE SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS ON SALT." LEAD (FRONT-PAGE) EDITORIALS IN IZVESTIYA NOVEMBER 30 AND PRAVDA DECEMBER 1 NAD PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW DECEMBER 1 CONSISTED OF LENGTHY REPLAYS OF LANGUAGE USED IN THE POLITBURO'S FAVORABLE EVALUATION OF THE MEETING'S RESULTS (REFTEL). PRAVDA AND SOME LOCAL PRESS ON NOVEMBER 30 PRINTED LETTERS TO THE EDITOR EXTOLLING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PEACE PROGRAM AND BREZHNEV IN CONNEC-

TION WITH VLADIVOSTOK.

4. SENATORS SPARKMAN AND MANSFIELD WERE QUOTED AT LENGTH -- AND SENATORS GRIFFIN, STENNIS, AND THURMOND WERE CITED -- TO SHOW BIPARTISAN AND POPULAR SUPPORT FOR DETENTE POLICIES AND VLADIVOSTOK. REMARKS IN FAVOR OF DETENE AND VLADIVOSTOK BY CONGRESSMAN ALBERT AND SENATORS PERCY, MOSS, AND HATHAWAY RECEIVED COVERAGE IN THE PRESS NOVEMBER 28-30. SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE PRESS SINCE VLADIVOSTOK HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING MEMBERS OF THE U.S. BUISNESS COMMUNITY, TO WHOM EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND APPROVAL FOR DETENTE AND VLADIVOSTOK HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED. U.S., WESTERN EUROPEAN, AND THIRD WORLD PRESS HAS BEEN EXHAUSTIVELY QUOTED. DECEMBER 2 PRAVDA CARRIES A SIGNED REPORT (STREL'NIKOV) FROM WASHINGTON SHOWING APPROVAL NOT ONLY BY U.S. NATIONAL BUT ALSO BY LOCAL PRESS, CITING "THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN" AND THE "CHARLOTTE OBSERVER." MOSCOW'S VECHERNAYA MOSKVA ON NOVEMBER 30 CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF A NEW POSTER BY BORIS YEFIMOV (WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY RABIDLY ANTI-AMERICAN CARTOONS) SHOWING "THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR" (PORTRAYED AS A HERBLOCK-TYPE BOMB) TIGHTLY BOUND BY ROPE HELD ON ONE END BY A SOVIET HAND, ON THE OTHER BY U.S. HAND, LATTER COMPLETE WITH STARS AND STRIPES. POSTER PROCLAIMS THAT "BY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, AT THE COMMAND OF REASONS...THE BOMB SHOULD BE BOUND UP STILL TIGHTER*" (FYI, POSTER NOT YET ON SALE IN THREE STORES CHECKED TODAY.)

5. ON PERSONAL REACTION LEVEL, WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK IN OUR PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW OFFICIALDOM WITH THEIR
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SEEMINGLY GENUINE WARMTH IN PRAISING RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT. IN THIS REGARD, WORTH NOTING THAT MOSCOW-BASED ITALIAN JOURNALIST WHO WAS IN ULAN BATOR TO COVER BREZHNEV VISIT TELLS US THAT MFA PRESS DIVISION CHIEF SOFINSKY, WHO IS USUALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE TO THE PRESS, ARRIVED IN ULAN BATOR FROM VLADIVOSTOK VOLUBLY ECSTATIC ABOUT THE FORD VISIT. SOFINSKY STRESSED TO OUR SOURCE THAT BREZHNEV AND FORD HAD ESTABLISHED A CLOSE PERSONAL RAPPORT. ASKED TO COMPARE THE FORD VISIT WITH THE LAST NIXON VISIT, SOFINSKY SAID, "FORD IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON. HE IS SUCH AN OPEN (PROSTOY) MAN."

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 OMB-01 NEA-06 EA-06 SAM-01 AEC-05 FEAE-00

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R 021544Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5073

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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6. MEDIA NEVERTHELESS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN "THE ENEMIES OF DETENTE". PRAVDA ON NOVEMBER 29 PROCLAIMED (IN AN ARTICLE WHICH NOTED PRESENCE IN U.S. OF CAMPAIGN BUTTON TO EFFECT THAT "JACKSON SUFFERS FROM A MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX") THAT SENATOR JACKSON'S POSITION OF "DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN" REGARDING VLADIVOSTOK JOINT STATEMENT "BORDERS ON POLITICAL IRRESPONSIBILITY." ARTICLE DREW CONCLUSION THAT JACKSON'S ACTIONS SHOWED THAT THOSE WHO WERE AGAINST COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE ALSO OPPONENTS OF EFFORTS TO SLOW DOWN ARMS RACE. THE SAME PAPER ATTACKED JACKSON AGAIN ON
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DECEMBER 1, IN A PARAGRAPH IN THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW WHICH LUMPED HIS TOGETHER WITH SENATOR BUCKLEY AND NATO'S

LUNS AS OPPONENTS OF IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-USSR RELATIONS AND AS REJECTING RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK. ATTACKS ON JACKSON FOLLOW LULL OF SEVERAL WEEKS IN WHICH SOVIETS GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING DECIDED ON A CEASE-FIRE WITH A MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER. SOVIETS MAY SEE WHAT THEY FEEL AS WIDESPREAD U.S. DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCE OF VLADIVOSTOK RESULTS AS PROVIDING ADEQUATE COVER TO RENEW CRITICISM OF HIM, FOCUSING ATTACKS ON HIS EXPRESSIONS OF DOUBT CONCERNING THOSE RESULTS.

7. PODGORNYY IN DUSHANBE NOVEMBER 29, WHILE HAILING VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT IN STANDARD LANGUAGE, GAVE MORE THAN USUAL ATTENTION TO ENEMIES OF DETENTE, INCLUDING TWO SEPARATE STRONGLY-WORDED STATEMENTS AGAINST THOSE (NOT IDENTIFIED BY NAME OR NATIONALITY) WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION USING DETENTE AS A PRETEXT. KIRILENKO IN BUCHAREST TWO DAYS EARLIER ALSO WARNED (IN TWO PARAGRAPHS) OF ENEMIES OF DETENTE. IN ADDITION, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED LOW-LEVEL SNIPING AT CIA AND DIEGO GARCIA. CIA CRITICISM CENTERED ON DIRECTOR COLBY'S STATEMENT THAT THE AGENCY HAD THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT ITS SECRET OPERATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND ON ALLEGED INTRODUCTION OF "SEVERAL HUNDRED" CIA AGENTS INTO SPAIN TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES AGAINST PORTUGAL AND SPANISH PROGRESSIVE FORCES.

8. U.S. CONTINUES TO TAKE LUMPS FOR ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, SOUTH VIETNAM, AND TO LESSER EXTENT CAMBODIA. U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IS NOW CONSISTENTLY CRITICIZED, USING BREZHNEV'S FORMULATION FROM SPEECH IN ULAN BATOR -- "WITH CLEAR SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE" -- WHICH DOES NOT NAME U.S. BUT LEAVES NO DOUBT AS TO SOURCE OF AID.

9. SIMILARLY, SIGNED COMMENTARY TITLED "THE OIL SMELLS OF BLOOD" IN DECEMBER 1 ISSUE OF KRASNAYA ZVEZDA TIES "OPEN DISCUSSION" IN WEST OF POSSIBILITY OF ARMED INTERVENTION IN OIL COUNTRIES (USING AS SOURCE JOSEPH ALSOP ARTICLE AND RECENT ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK) TO ISRAELI ANTI-RAB DESIGNS, AND SUGGESTS THAT THIS IS WHY ISRAEL
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IS BEING KEPT SO WELL SUPPLIED WITH ARMS. ARTICLE GOES ON TO CONNECT CENTO-U.S. NAVAL MANEUVERS IN PERSIAN GULF WITH IMPERIALIST DESIGNS AGAINST OIL STATES OF THAT REGION, THEN JUMPS TO CONDEMNATION OF U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND DIEGO GARCIA AND SIMONSTOWN BASES. THIS COMMENTARY, BY COLONEL LEONT'IEV, IS CLEARLY MOST VIRULENT CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICIES TO APPEAR IN SOME TIME IN SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS.
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Message Attributes

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